Agriculture Minister to speak to the Finance Minister and see that these conditions are reversed and we pull back the country on to the road of independent economic development?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I can assure the hon. Members that I stand by them with that subject and I will do my utmost. Don't worry; we will get it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN- Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Privatisation of Iron Ore Mine National Minerals Development Corporation

*121. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government propose to hand over to a private group a high grade iron ore mine of the NMDC, which has shown reserves of the higest grade iron ore after exploration;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the reasons for handingg over the iron ore mine to a private group;

(c) what are the terms and conditions, if any, laid down for handing over the iron ore mine to a private group; and

(d) whether Government contemplate a change in its policy to privatise the mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH DEV): (a) Government have so far not taken any decision to hand over any high grade iron ore mine of NMDC to a private group.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Non payment of dues by NBCC

*122. DR. SANJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of contractors have not been paid their dues for the last one year by the National Building Construction Corporation;

(b) if so, what are the details of the pending payments together with the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when, the payments are proposed to be released?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SHEILA KAUL): (a) to (c) Normally, the payments to the contractors are made by the NBCC within a period of two months unless the payments are disputed or are under arbitration. However, there may be stray cases where payments have been delayed due to certain reasons, including delayed payments by the clients. Every effort is made to release the payments to the contractors in time.

The Units of the NBCC are scattered all over the country and in a few countries abroad. Payments are released by the concerned Units and no central account is kept regarding payments to contractors.

Storage capacity of C.W.C.

*123. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what is the storage capacity of the Central Warehousing Corporation and how those godowns are used; and

(b) what are the goods stored in them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The storage capacity of Central Warehousing Corporation as on 1-9-1993 was 65.83 lakh tonnes. Central Warehousing Corporation's godowns are used for storage of agricultural produce, fertilisers, seeds, manures, agricultural equipments and other notified commodities.